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3 February 1976

INTERAGENCY INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM*

SUBJECT: Soviet and Cuban Aid to the MPLA in Angola
During January 1976

Key Points

The amount of military support provided the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) by the Soviet Union and Cuba increased markedly in January 1976.

- Such military support totaled at least \$88 million measured in US equivalent costs. The amount is nearly double the December 1975 level and is equivalent to almost half the total outlays incurred from March through December 1975.
- The bulk of the increased outlays reflected the vastly expanded Cuban effort to support their troops in Angola. By the end of January we estimated 12,000 Cubans were in Angola of which 4,500 arrived in January.
- Soviet military shipments increased somewhat since late 1975 and for the first time support equipment such as amphibious vehicles and pontoon bridges were observed.

Distribution.

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This memorandum supplements and brings up to date an earlier INTERAGENCY INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM entitled, "Soviet and Cuban Aid to the MPLA in Angola from March through December 1975," published on January 24, 1976. It has been prepared jointly by the Central Intelligence Agency, the Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the Department of State.

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The Details

The pace of Soviet and Cuban military aid to Angola has steadily increased since September. During January their combined sea and airlift moved 15,500 tons of equipment and 4,500 Cuban troops. This is twice the amount of cargo and about a third more troops as compared with December levels. For the entire ten months prior to January, deliveries were estimated at 20,000 tons of military equipment and 7,500 Cuban soldiers.

Sealift Operations

Fifteen communist ships -- five Soviet and ten Cuban -- delivered military equipment and/or personnel to the MPLA in January. In combination they carried a total 14,500 tons of equipment and some 2,000 troops: the Soviet ships delivered 5,000 tons and the Cuban ships a mix of 9,500 tons of cargo and some 2,000 military personnel.

The voyage patterns of Soviet arms carriers calling at Angola in January are markedly different from earlier arrivals. Most ships in January sailed non-stop to Angola. In contrast most arrivals in 1975 included as many as 5 different ports on one voyage itinerary. Thus, although January ship arrivals did not top earlier months, the amount of goods offloaded in Angola or the Congo were likely higher. Identified for the first time were deliveries of amphibious vehicles and pontoon bridges.

Cuban voyages to Angola were double the December level. We believe that a large portion of the increase was military support items such as medical supplies and foodstuffs for

Cuban troops in Angola. Small arms, ammunition and field equipment still accounted for more than half of the estimated 9,500 tons delivered in Cuban bottoms in January.

Airlift Operations

For both the USSR and Cuba, airlift operations continued to play an important part in augmenting seaborne deliveries of men and equipment. Overall air activities were about comparable with the high level of flights for any one month period between September and December 1975.

In January, the Soviets flew a total of 19 flights to the Angola region -- 17 with AN-22 heavy transports and 2 with AN-12 medium transports. These flights are estimated to have carried 870 tons of military equipment. Airlift operations from Cuba to the Angola region also reached a total of 19 flights in January -- 14 by long-range Soviet IL-62 and 5 by smaller Cubana aircraft. These flights are estimated to have carried 2,500 troops and a small amount of cargo.

Estimated Cost of Military Aid

The following is an estimate of the costs incurred by the Soviets and Cubans for the aid delivered to the MPLA in January. The first figure in each case is the estimate based on US equivalent costs. The second figure, which appears in parentheses, is the estimate based on Soviet foreign trade prices for equipment and Soviet or Cuban cost for services. (For a statement of the methodology employed in arriving at these estimates, the reader is referred to the first report in this series, NIO-IIM 76-004C, published January 24, 1976.)

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Table 1

Military Aid to the MPLA
January 1976

Million of US \$

	<u>Soviet and East European Aid</u>	<u>Cuban Aid</u>	<u>Total</u>
Equipment	23.0 (18.0)	41.0 (30.0)	64.0 (48.0)
Manpower	.4 (.5)	17.6 (3.6)	18.0 (4.1)
Transportation	2.0 (.6)	4.0 (1.7)	6.0 (2.5)
Totals	25.4 (19.1)	62.6 (35.3)	88.0 (54.6)

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TABLE 1 ~~SECRET~~

Soviet Shipping to Angola
January 1976 1/

Ship Name (GRT)	Port of Departure	Date	Port of Arrival	Date		Cargo 2/ Offloaded	Remarks
				Arrival	Departure		
Aksim Litvinov (6,555 GRT)	Riga	24 Dec	Luanda	14/17 Jan			None
Donogorsk (8,847 GRT)	Odessa	1 Jan	Luanda	18/21 Jan		1,200	Declared 1,200 tons general cargo at Bosporus. Deck cargo - 4 heavy amphibious ferry units.
Pleian Chirkov (11,278 GRT)	Odessa Dakar Conakry	21 Dec 31 Dec/2 Jan 3/13 Jan	Pointe Noire	18/19 Jan		820	Declared 2,460 tons general cargo at Bosporus. Deck Cargo - 2 trucks, 14 shop van trucks, 2 trucks mounted heavy folding pontoon bridge units.
General Vladimir Zaimov (9,173 GRT)	Nicolaev	6 Jan	Luanda	22/27 Jan		2,150	Declared 2,150 tons general cargo at Bosporus. Deck Cargo: 12 jeeps.
Zik Vavilov (11,094 GRT)	Odessa	16 Jan	Luanda	31 Jan			Declared 3,033 tons general cargo Deck Cargo - 10 olive green tracked amphibious vehicles, 12 olive drab stake trucks and 2 trucks

All information for January 1976 should be considered preliminary.
Estimated tons.

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Ship Name	GRT	Flag	Port of		Destination/Date	Remarks
			Origin/Date			
XX Anive-sario	7,235	Cuban	Havana 3-4 Jan		ETA Luanda 24-25 Jan	On this second identified voyage of the XX Anive-sario, the ship is suspected of carrying primarily military personnel.
Guisa	9,400	Cuban	Havana/Mariel Mid-Jan.		ETA Luanda/ Pointe Noire 28-29 Jan.	This ship is suspected of carrying a mix of military equipment and personnel.
Star	9,135	Somali	Havana/Mariel 4-5 Jan		ETA Luanda/Pointe Noire 25-26 Jan	The Star is probably carrying primarily military equipment.
Imias	9,391	Cuban	Havana 11-12 Jan		ETA 31 Jan 1 Feb	This is the second voyage to Angola by the Imias. The ship is probably carrying primarily military equipment.
Victoria de Giron	10,000	Cuban	Havana/Mariel 1-2 Jan		ETA 26-27 Jan	This ship is primarily military equipment.

Information for January arrivals of Cuban owned or controlled ships suspected of carrying arms and/or troops should be considered preliminary. There were no confirmed Cuban ships carrying arms and/or military equipment to the Angolan

TABLE 2

Cuban Ships Suspected of Involvement in
The Delivery of Military Equipment and/or
Personnel to the Angolan Region

January 1976*

<u>Ship Name</u>	<u>GRT</u>	<u>Flag</u>	<u>Port of Origin/Date</u>	<u>Port of Destination/Date</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Sierra Maestra	9,641	Cuban	Probably Mariel 30 Nov	Spanish Sahara mid Dec. Luanda 6 Jan.	The ship made an uncer- tain stop in the Spanish Saharan region before sailing to Angola. It is believed to be carrying a partial cargo of military equipment for the Ango- lan region.
Agate Islands	8,737	Somalian	Havana mid-Dec	Luanda/ Pointe Noire 1-2 January	This ship is suspected of carrying a mix of military equipment and troops.
Sonzales Lines	9,732	Cuban	Havana/Mariel 2 January	ETA Luanda/Pointe Noire 23-24 January	This ship is suspected of carrying primarily military equipment.
Comandante Camillo Cienfuegos	9,730	Cuba	Probably Mariel in early January	ETA 25-26 January	This ship is suspected of making an intermediate stop in the Spanish Saharan region prior to sailing for Angola.
Vietnam Herolco	7,552	Cuban	Havana 3-4 January	ETA Luanda 23-24 January	